Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



Labor & Workplace Standards Committee

HB 2444

Brief Description: Eliminating the reference to the standard industrial classification system in the worker and community right to know fund.

Sponsors: Representatives Manweller, Sells and Kilduff; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires the Department of Labor and Industries to use an updated classification system for the purposes of the Worker and Community Right to Know fund.

Hearing Date: 1/18/16

Staff: Trudes Tango (786-7384).

Background:

The Worker and Community Right to Know Act (Act) requires the state to establish a comprehensive program for disclosing information about hazardous substances in the workplace and community. Among other things, the program assists employers in determining if hazardous substances are present in their workplace and helping employers with setting up their hazards communication program.

The program is funded through annual fee assessments to employers in industries that typically use hazardous chemicals. The Act requires the Department of Labor and Industries to use the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code to determine which industries should be assessed a fee. The SIC system is considered obsolete and has generally been replaced with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

House Bill Analysis - 1 - HB 2444

For the purposes of identifying industries for the Right to Know Act fee assessment, the Department must use the NAICS rather than SIC system.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is

passed.